

In re Patent Application of
ROLANDI
Serial No. 09/881,581
Filed: **June 14, 2001**

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful and thorough examination of the present application, for correctly acknowledging Applicant's priority claim, and for correctly indicating that dependent Claims 61-62 recite patentable subject matter. It is noted that it took nearly eight years to receive the first substantive examination.

Applicant has amended independent Claim 50 to incorporate the subject matter of former dependent Claim 52, now canceled. Applicant has also amended dependent Claim 53 for consistency and dependent Claims 54-56 and 58 to correct minor informalities. Accepting the Examiner's helpful suggestion to rewrite patentable dependent Claim 61 in independent form, Applicant has also added new independent Claim 96 and new dependent Claims 97-102. Applicant submits that all claims are patentable, and presents arguments and amendments herein supporting such patentability.

I. The Amended Claims

Amended independent Claim 50 is directed to a memory card for storing data, and for operating in cooperation with at least one of an external acquisition system and an external processing system. The memory card includes a casing, and an integrated circuit encapsulated within the casing for storing the data. The integrated circuit includes a non-volatile electrically programmable memory that is erasable by exposure to electromagnetic radiation for permitting a non-electrical erasure of the stored data. Claim 50 has been amended to

recite the casing has an aperture aligned with the non-volatile electrically programmable memory for permitting selective exposure to the electromagnetic radiation to thereby erase the stored data.

II. The Amended Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected amended independent Claim 50 and former dependent Claim 52 over Maehara. In the Background of Invention section, Maehara discloses a read-only memory (ROM) unit including a circuit board 1, and a plurality of individual ROM's 2 mounted onto the circuit board. The ROM's may be erased when exposed to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Each ROM includes a UV radiation window 2a, a mask seal 3 for preventing unwanted erasure of the ROM and covering the respective UV radiation window. Also, each ROM is electrically coupled via conductive traces on the circuit board to a connector interface 4. The circuit board is mounted between a body 5 and covering 6, the body and covering defining a housing for the ROM unit. (Col. 1, lines 39-68).

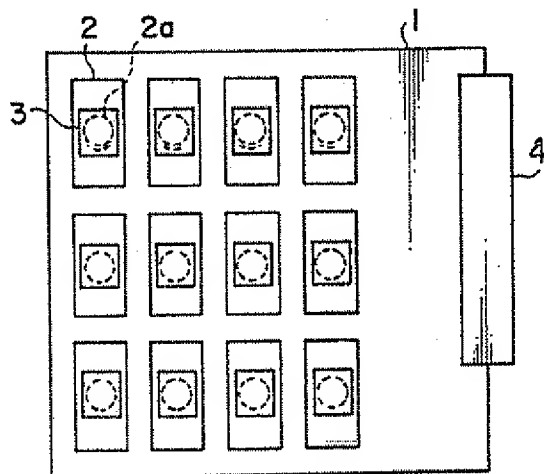


Figure 8 of Maehara

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When data stored on the ROM's is to be rewritten, the housing of the ROM unit is removed, and the mask seals are removed. The circuit board is then exposed to UV radiation to effect erasure of the data. (Col. 1, line 56 through Col. 2, line 7).

Applicant has amended independent Claim 50 to recite an integrated circuit being encapsulated within the casing and the casing having an aperture aligned with the non-volatile electrically programmable memory for permitting selective exposure to the electromagnetic radiation to thereby erase the stored data. Applicant submits that Maehara fails to disclose this above-noted claim recitation. Differently, Maehara discloses that each individual ROM includes a separate mask seal that must be removed to effect erasure of the memory. Clearly, the mask seal is not part of the bulky housing, which also must be removed to effect erasure. Advantageously, this claim feature, as depicted in Figures 1-2 and discussed in paragraphs 31-32 of the present application, enables the portable memory card to be readily transportable and erasable yet protected from unintended erasure by the encapsulating housing.

Accordingly, because of this noted deficiency of the prior art, it is submitted that amended independent Claim 50 is patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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